Ramadan Lessons

Lesson 15: Praying for Others

Sheikh Khalid Al-Husainan

(May Allah protect him)



I seek refuge in Allah from Satan, the accursed:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ * أياماً مَّعدوداتٍ﴾

O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was for those before you, that you may attain Taqwa. [They are] prescribed number of days."

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

All praise be to Allah, may good, pure and blessed praises. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship but Allah, alone, without partner, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

My dear brothers, Allah Most High mentioned many characteristics of the believers in the Quran. Why did Allah mention these characteristics in the Qur'an? Was it just to recite them? No, but so that we would apply them in our lives. One of these characteristics that we have neglected much is the characteristic of praying for others. Allah Most High said in His Noble Book:

﴿وَالَّذِينَ جَاءُوا مِن بَعْدِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِّلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ﴾

"And those who came after them say: 'Our Lord! Forgive us, and our brethren who came before us into the Faith, and leave not, in our hearts, rancor (or sense of injury) against those who have believed. Our Lord! Thou art indeed Full of Kindness, Most Merciful.'"

Subhanallah, my dear brothers, I found that this trait of praying for your Muslim brother, if it proves something, pay attention, it proves the purity of the heart. Anyone who prays for others, you must find in his heart purity. You find that his heart is clean. You find in his heart clarity. So, how can we form this characteristic in our life, in our prayer, and in our private callings to our Lord Most High? To always pray for our Muslim brothers.

The Messenger of Allah (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*) said, and the Hadith is in Sahih Muslim: "The prayer of a Muslim for his Muslim brother in his absence will be answered. There is an angel assigned near his head..." Imagine... the task of this angel

is that whenever you pray for your brother Muslim, “Allah forgive him,” for example, the angel says, “And may the same be for you.” And as you all know, the prayers angels are answered.

By Allah my dear brothers, I will mention to you a wondrous event, about a person who used to pray with me in the mosque. Once when I left the mosque, he said, “I just prayed for you.” I replied, “May Allah reward you well. How?” He replied, “Whenever I prostrate...” look at this amazing trait! I swear, my dear brothers, there are only a few people who do this our present reality, except those upon whom Allah has mercy.

He made up his own prayer. He said, “Whenever I prostrate, I say [while in the mosque], 'Allah forgive me and those who are with me in the mosque.'”

What did he think about? The people who were praying with him in the mosque. Who amongst us today thinks of those who are with them in the mosque and prays for them? This is an amazing trait. This is refinement of manners and loftiness of the soul that a person does not always think about himself alone when asking Allah, but also thinks about his Muslim brothers.

I also remember another person, an old man, over 60 years old. I once told him, “I ask Allah to forgive you,” and he immediately said, “And all the Muslims.” I once said, “I ask Allah to admit you in heaven.” He replied, “And all the Muslims.” These days if someone says to another, “I ask Allah to admit you in heaven,” he would reply, “Ameen.” He doesn't think of his Muslim brothers.

So, this is a good trait, that a Muslim trains himself... this is a matter which depends on person's personal development, that you make praying for others a engrained trait of your life, in your private conversations with Allah Most High. And the Messenger of Allah (*sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*) said, and this is good tidings, “Whoever asks for forgiveness for believing men and women will have a good deed for every believing man and woman.” This is am amazing Hadith, and it was a habit of Sheikh Al-Islam Ibn Taymiyyah, may Allah have mercy on him, that he would pray for his Muslim brothers. In his daily habits, he would apply this Hadith.

Imagine, how many Muslims are there on the face of the earth today? Alive, not dead. Let's say at the lowest estimate, there are a billion, no? But some of them may be tainted, some shirk, and Allah knows what in their Islam. They may by Muslim by name alone, not in truth. Let us say that in the lowest, lowest, lowest estimate there are ten million. The lowest estimate is that there are ten million Muslims on the face of the earth. This is the lowest estimate, OK?

Alright, ten million. If you take for every believer a good deed, then this is at the lowest estimate ten million good deeds. And Allah multiplies reward for whom He wills. Ten millions times ten. So how much is it now? One hundred million good deeds. So, if you said, "Allah forgive the believing men and women," this will include the living and the dead. So imagine from our father Adam (*alaihi asalam*) to our present reality. How many billions of Muslims? You pray for them in less than a quarter of a minute, and you add to your account billions of good deeds. So make it a habit, may Allah have mercy on you, for you to have this blessed good trait, that you always dedicate some of your prayers for your Muslim brothers.

And there is an issue, my dear beloved ones, that many people neglect: those who have fallen into trouble or are in a crisis. What is this? He forgets to secretly pray for his brothers. As long as you have fallen into trouble or crisis, or have fallen into debt for example, and you know your Muslim brother has debt, you should say, "Allah pay back the loans of my brother with so-and-so. Allah forgive them. Allah have mercy on them. Allah improve their condition."

You must always pray for your Muslim brothers, especially the persecuted, the imprisoned, the Mujahideen, and the Muhajireen. You must pray for those who were persecuted, arrested, and tortured, and make them a daily part of your prayer. I swear my brothers, you will feel goodness. You will feel comfort. You will feel reassurance. You will feel in your heart, subhanallah, that you have truly purified your heart of hatred and envy. Why? Because you have made part of your prayers for your Muslim brothers. You pray for them that Allah Most High will relieve their pains, that Allah Most High will help them, that Allah Most High will be with them, to ease their hardships.

We ask Allah, the Noble, the Lord of the Magnificent Throne to guide us and you what He loves and is pleased with. And may Allah reward you well.

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